

DRAFT Data Assessment Team (DAT) Conference Call Notes
5/9/13 at 11:00 a.m.

Participants: Lucinda Shih (CCWD), Geir Aasen and Lauren Damon (DFW), Edmund Yu, Elaine Jeu and Wenli Yin (DWR), Elizabeth Leeper (KMTG on behalf of SLDMWA), Jon Speegle and Leigh Bartoo (FWS), RG Fernando (MWD), Barb Byrne (NMFS), Eleanor Bartolomeo (SWRCB)

Sacramento River Salmonid Monitoring

Preliminary Rotary Screw Trap (RST) Report			
Species*	FWS Red Bluff Diversion Dam RST (Estimated Passage)	DFW Tisdale Weir RST (Catch)	DFW Knights Landing RST (Catch)
Date	4/23/13 to 5/6/13**	5/1/13 to 5/8/13***	Monitoring discontinued since 12/15/12.
CHNF	588,721	338	
CHNLF	2,526		
CHNW	251		
CHNS	47,656	9	
Ad-Clipped CHN	Not reported	88	
SH	16,051		
Ad-Clipped SH	Not reported		
*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped). Data subject to revision.			

**At the Red Bluff Diversion Dam, the biweekly passage total for all species is higher than the last reporting period of 4/9 to 4/22 except for winter-run Chinook salmon.

***Unmarked Chinook salmon catch has been on a decline during this reporting period. Overall catch of unmarked Chinook salmon went from 248 on 5/1 to 14 on 5/8. At this time, the traps are either fished at night (1900 hours to 0700 hours) or during the day (0700 hours to 1900 hours) for about 12 hours. Overall, catch is higher at night. For instance, DFW caught 226 unmarked Chinook salmon at night and 22 during the day on 5/1.

Graphical summaries of the monitoring data collected at the Sacramento River and at other locations can be found at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/calfed/calfedmonitoring.cfm>. In addition, the biweekly passage reports of juvenile salmonids sampled at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam are available at http://www.fws.gov/redbluff/rbdd_biweekly.aspx.

Hatchery Release Update

Release Dates	Coded-Wire Tag Race	Hatchery	Release Site	Number Released (Adipose-Fin Clipped and Coded-Wire Tagged)
4/9 to 4/18/13	Spring Run	Feather River Hatchery	Boyd's Pump	1,034,101 (100% marked)
4/10 to 4/11/13	Spring Run	Feather River Hatchery	90 San Pablo Bay, Crockett	1,033,627 (100% marked)
4/17/13	Spring Run	Feather River Hatchery	Gridley Boat Ramp	92,300 (100% marked)
4/17 to 4/18/13	Fall Run	Mokelumne River Hatchery	Sherman Island Road	112,447 (also released 338,654 untagged)
4/30 to 5/3/13	Fall Run	Mokelumne River Hatchery	Sherman Island Road	336,667 (also released 1,012,055 untagged)
5/6 to 5/7/13	Fall Run	Nimbus Hatchery	Jibboom Boat Ramp	Not yet available
5/6 to 5/7/13	Fall Run	Nimbus Hatchery	Howe Ave	Not yet available

*Hatchery release information is preliminary and subject to revision.

Delta Fish Monitoring

Preliminary FWS Trawl and Seine Catch Report from 4/28/13 to 5/4/13				
Species*	Beach Seines	Mossdale Trawl**	Sacramento Trawl	Chippis Island Trawl
CHNF	11		196	231
CHNLF				
CHNW				
CHNS	1		3	154
Spray Dyed CHN			1 (marked with green caudal fin)	
Ad-Clipped CHN	1		32	103
SH			1	1
Ad-Clipped SH				2
DSM				
LFS				2 (83 and 85 mm, no expression)
SPLT	18			2

*Chinook race based on length (Frank Fisher model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, SH = Steelhead, DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail. Species are unmarked unless noted as adipose-fin clipped (ad-clipped) or spray dyed. Data subject to revision.

**From April to June, DFW (Region 4) conducts the Mossdale trawl monitoring and not FWS. Based on preliminary data, DFW caught 108 unmarked Chinook salmon with an average fork length of 83.3 mm at the Mossdale trawls from 4/28 to 5/4. In addition, DFW caught 2 Chinook salmon with sutures and 1 Chinook salmon with antenna. However, the fork length of these marked Chinook salmon were not measured.

Furthermore, DFW conducted another trawl efficiency test on 5/3 (Friday) and released 5,000 Chinook salmon marked with a purple anal fin.

Information about the Delta fish monitoring data from FWS can also be found at <http://www.fws.gov/stockton/jfmp/>.

Salvage Monitoring

DWR shut down Banks pumping and salvage operations at 1300 hours on 5/6 and will start up again at 2100 hours on 5/9. The shutdown is due to a replacement of a few pumps and inspection of gates, valves, primary channel, and louvers.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Smelt and Other Species from 4/29/13 to 5/5/13				
Species	CVP		SWP	
	Salvage	Total to Date	Salvage	Total to Date
DSM*	32	208	302	430
LFS**	30	217	247	291
SPLT	20	41	16	118
GST				
WST		4	6	12

Notes:
 -DSM=Delta smelt, LFS=Longfin smelt, SPLT = Splittail, GST=Green sturgeon, WST=White sturgeon.
 -Salvage estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish.
 -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013).
 -Data subject to revision.

* Delta smelt <20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the CVP fish facility. Similarly, delta smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 4/24 to 0900 hours on 5/2.

As of 5/8, the juvenile delta smelt salvage total for water year 2013 is 374 fish. This is about 46% of the juvenile delta smelt take limit (i.e., 809 fish) for May or 16% of the overall juvenile delta smelt take limit (i.e., 2,350 fish) for water year 2013.

** No longfin smelt <20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the CVP fish facility. In comparison, longfin smelt < 20 mm in fork length were reported in larval fish samples at the SWP fish facility during the period from 1500 hours on 4/24 to 0900 hours on 5/2.

Preliminary DFW Salvage Report for Salmonids from 4/29/13 to 5/5/13								
Species	Central Valley Project (CVP)				State Water Project (SWP)			
	Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)		Adipose-Fin Clipped (Ad-Clipped)		Non-Adipose Fin Clipped (Non-Clipped)	
	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss	Salvage	Loss
CHNF			890	588			455	1,925
Total to Date	93	62	2,054	1,533	322	1,460	734	3,129
CHNLF								
Total to Date	165	118	28	18	616	2,780	57	260
CHNW								
Total to Date	67	53	129	98	120	542	142	633
CHNS	4	2	156	102	3	13	132	558
Total to Date	4	2	368	267	3	13	441	1,894
CHNU								
Total to Date			8	5				
SH			19	13	36	156	71	307
Total to Date	312	212	274	186	369	1,598	428	1,851
Notes: -Chinook race based on length (Delta model); CHNF=Fall run, CHNLF=Late-fall run, CHNW=Winter run, CHNS= Spring run, CHNU= Unknown race (Chinook greater than the length-at-date criteria), SH = Steelhead. -Salvage and loss estimates are rounded to the nearest whole fish. -Documentation on how to calculate salvage and Chinook loss can be found at http://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/Salmon%20Loss%20Estimation/ . -Steelhead loss: SWP steelhead loss = salvage x 4.33 and CVP steelhead loss = salvage x 0.68. -Total to date is the total since 10/1/12 (the start of water year 2013). -Data subject to revision.								

Salvage information is posted on the salvage FTP site (<http://ftp.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>). If you cannot access the FTP site, you can also go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/delta/apps/salvage/Default.aspx> and click on "Salvage FTP Site."

Smelt Monitoring

20-mm Survey

20-mm Survey #4 was in the field from 4/22 to 4/25. Processing is currently 76% complete and is ongoing. DFW collected 132 delta smelt that ranged in size from 7 to 28 mm. Of this total, 17 delta smelt were from the lower San Joaquin River and the rest were from the confluence and Sacramento River stations. Overall, delta smelt concentrations were highest in the confluence region.

In addition, DFW collected 6,454 longfin smelt that ranged in size from 7 to 34 mm during 20-mm Survey #4. Of this total, 27 were from the south and central Delta, 3,522 were from the Sacramento River, 1,045 were from the confluence, and 1,860 were from Suisun Bay and westward.

Lastly, DFW began 20-mm Survey #5 on 5/6 and the survey is scheduled to be complete by the afternoon of 5/9. Processing is about 12% complete. Tow time at many of the stations in the south and central Delta

had to be reduced from 10 minutes to 2.5 minutes due to an algae boom. Algae blooms are not a typical occurrence during DFW smelt monitoring surveys, but these blooms have occurred in the past.

From 20-mm Survey #5, DFW collected 24 delta smelt that ranged in size from 6 to 26 mm. Of this total, two were from the south and central Delta and the rest were from the lower Sacramento River and the Cache Slough/Deep Water Shipping Channel region. In addition, DFW collected 2 longfin smelt that ranged in size from 24 to 31 mm.

DFW will begin 20-mm Survey #6 on 5/20. For more information about the 20-mm Survey, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=20mm>.

Spring Kodiak Trawl

Spring Kodiak Trawl #4 was in the field from 4/2 to 4/5. DFW collected 22 adult delta smelt that ranged in size from 69 to 90 mm. Of this total, 3 were male (2 pre-spawn, 1 mature) and 19 were female (11 pre-spawn, 2 ripe, 6 spent). These delta smelt were collected in and around the confluence, the lower San Joaquin River, Montezuma Slough, and the Cache Slough/Deep Water Shipping Channel region.

Spring Kodiak Trawl #5 was in the field from 4/29 to 5/2. DFW collected 17 adult delta smelt and 2 young of the year delta smelt. Of the adult delta smelt total, 2 were male and 15 were female. These adult delta smelt ranged in size from 71 to 89 mm and were all spent. These delta smelt were collected in and around the confluence, the lower San Joaquin River, Montezuma Slough, and the Cache Slough/Deep Water Shipping Channel region.

For more information about the Spring Kodiak Trawl, please visit the DFW website: <http://dfg.ca.gov/delta/projects.asp?ProjectID=SKT>.

Smelt Working Group

The Smelt Working Group met this past Monday (5/6) and agreed that current operations and conditions are protective of both delta smelt and longfin smelt. However, the Smelt Working Group will reconvene if Old and Middle River (OMR) flow becomes increasingly negative in the -2,500 cfs to -3,000 cfs range.

With the most recent survey data, the distribution of larva and juvenile delta smelt are more favorable than they were in the past. 20-mm Survey #4 showed that the center of distribution of larva and juvenile delta smelt were out of the central and south Delta.

The Smelt Working Group notes and FWS determinations are posted at http://www.fws.gov/sfbaydelta/cvp-swp/smelt_working_group.cfm.

Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Working Group

DOSS met this past Tuesday (5/7) and provided no formal advice to NMFS and WDMT, but provided an update on the implementation of the NMFS RPA actions that are currently in place. For NMFS RPA Action IV.2.1 (San Joaquin River inflow to export (I:E) ratio), DWR and Reclamation must manage exports based on a 1:1 I:E ratio since the water year type in the San Joaquin Valley is classified as critical and the San Joaquin River inflow at Vernalis is currently greater than 1,500 cfs. As of 5/8, the daily inflow at Vernalis is 3,689 cfs.

For NMFS RPA Action IV.2.3 (OMR flow management), DWR and Reclamation are currently under the second stage action response for exceeding a second stage steelhead loss trigger on 5/1. This second stage action response required the 5-day average OMR flow to be no more than 25% more negative than -2,500 cfs (i.e., -3,125 cfs) for at least 5 days. OMR flow could be relaxed if no first or second stage trigger is exceeded during the last three days of the minimum five-day action response. Day one of the action response began on 5/2 and the action response has not yet been satisfied since there has not been three consecutive days where no first or second stage trigger is exceeded.

No OMR flow triggers were exceeded on 5/7 and 5/8. If the same trend continues today (5/9), then OMR flow could be relaxed tomorrow (5/10). However, OMR flow is not currently controlling operations.

DOSS notes are posted at <http://www.swr.noaa.gov/ocap/doss.htm>.

Operations

Preliminary Summary for 5/9/13			
SWP		CVP	
Clifton Court Inflow (cfs)	800	Jones Pumping Plant (cfs)	1,000
SWP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	404	CVP San Luis Reservoir Share (TAF) as of Midnight	649
San Luis Reservoir Total (TAF) as of Midnight	1,053	American – Nimbus Reservoir Releases (cfs)	1,000
Feather – Oroville Reservoir Releases (cfs)	4,000	Sacramento – Keswick Reservoir Releases (cfs)	12,000
DELTA OPERATIONS			
Outflow (cfs)	~9,600	14-day Average OMR Flow as of 5/8/13 (cfs)	-780
X2 (km)	> 81	5-day Average OMR Flow as of 5/8/13(cfs)	-997
E/I (%)	12.5 (3-day average)		

After reviewing current operations, Wenli Yin (DWR) responded to various questions about operations. The questions and responses from the conference call are below:

- What is currently controlling operations?
 - *Response:* Overall, the water quality standards in the western Delta from D-1641 are controlling operations. With these standards, the 14-day average EC must be ≤ 0.45 mS/cm at Emmaton on the Sacramento River and at Jersey Point on the San Joaquin River.

Reservoir releases are being controlled by the EC standard at Emmaton and SWP/CVP exports are being controlled by the EC standard at Jersey Point. As of 5/8, the 14-day average EC is 0.63 mS/cm at Emmaton and 0.36 mS/cm at Jersey Point.
- How much longer will the Oroville and Keswick reservoir releases remain elevated?
 - *Response:* An e-mail update was sent out after the DAT conference call to address this question. Oroville reservoir releases were decreased to 3,000 cfs on 5/10 for temperature management. In terms of Keswick reservoir releases, there are no scheduled changes in the near future.
- Shouldn't X2 be less than 81 km during this time of year to comply with D-1641?
 - *Response:* There are different ways to meet the habitat protection outflow/X2 standard in D-1641. The standard is currently being met based on flow and not the location of X2.

A summary of daily operations can also be viewed at <http://www.water.ca.gov/swp/operationscontrol/docs/delta/deltaops.pdf>.

South Delta Temporary Barriers Project Update

Excerpts from the 5/3 status update from Jacob McQuirk (DWR) is presented below:

DWR anticipates to receive the Section 404 CWA/Section 10 RHA permit for 2013-2017 on Monday May 6, and construction of the south Delta temporary rock barriers is scheduled to start on Tuesday May 7. The scheduled construction start date for Middle River barrier has been moved up to May 7, 2013 with closure later in the week. Closure of the Old River Tracy barrier will occur next. Closure of the Grant Line Canal barrier is subject to the Delta smelt conditions within the Delta. DWR plans to maintain an accelerated construction schedule until all barriers are closed. Better estimates of closure dates are forthcoming in the next update.

For more information about the Temporary Barriers Project, please visit http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/tbp/index_tbp.cfm.

Next Conference Call: The next DAT conference call is scheduled on 5/16 at 11:00 a.m. Barb Byrne (NMFS) will not be able to call in to DAT and will send out a DOSS e-mail update before the conference call.

DRAFT